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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2535
INFO RUEHKB/AMEMBASSY BAKU 1298
RUEHSI/AMEMBASSY TBILISI 2946
RUEHYE/AMEMBASSY YEREVAN 1166
RUEHDA/AMCONSUL ADANA 0269
RUEHIT/AMCONSUL ISTANBUL 9567

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 ANKARA 000136

SIPDIS

FOR EUR/PGI NERISSA COOK AND CELESTE CONNORS
FOR OES/IHA JACK CRODDY, HAROLD FOSTER AND REBECCA DALEY FOR
EUR/SE GRANT MCMURRAN AND BAXTER HUNT

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [OTRA](#) [TBIO](#) [CDC](#) [WHO](#) [TU](#) [AGMT](#)
SUBJECT: COUNTRY CLEARANCE FOR US INTERAGENCY AVIAN
INFLUENZA TEAM TO TRAVEL TO TURKEY

REF: STATE 007161

¶1. Embassy Ankara grants country clearance for the US Interagency Avian Influenza Team traveling to Turkey arriving January 16 to assess the Avian Influenza outbreak in Turkey and to assist the response by the GoT, WHO and FAO/OIE.

¶2. Embassy Ankara will meet and assist team members at Ankara Airport. Ankara will also expedite the issuance of visas for those who need them. Transportation will be provided at the airport and while team members are in-country.

¶3. Hotel reservations have been secured at the Sheraton Hotel in Ankara. Tel: +90-312-468-5454, Fax +90-312-468-15497.

¶4. Control Officer for the visit is EST Officer David Young who can be reached through the Embassy Operator at (90 312) 455 5555, mobile phone (90) 532 620 3846, or e-mail at YoungDK@state.gov.

¶5. Visas: All Americans traveling to Turkey must have a valid visa. Effective April 1, 2004, travelers without a visa can obtain a visa valid for one entry/three months at port of entry upon payment of USD 20 fee. This fee is payable only in U.S. Dollars cash. There is no fee for official travel if the visa is obtained outside of Turkey.

¶6. Health safety: Information on vaccinations and other health precautions can be obtained from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention Hotline for International Travelers (tel: 1-877-394-8747; fax 1-800-CDC-FAXX, 1-800-232-3299; or via the Internet at <http://www.cdc.gov>).

¶7. Security Assessment: In the aftermath of Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) there continues to be the potential for both transnational and indigenous terrorist groups to target U.S. interests in Turkey. After the Gulf War, the predecessor to the Turkish Terrorist Group Revolutionary People's Liberation Party/Front (DHKP/C) assassinated four Americans in Turkey and carried out numerous bombings of U.S. targets (mostly private sector businesses, although two rockets were directed toward the Consulate General in Istanbul). Subsequent to the ending of OIF hostilities, there have been isolated terrorist bombings attributed to DHKP/C and other indigenous terrorist groups in protest of OIF. Other Turkish

terrorist groups with anti-Western sympathies include Marxist-Leninist Communist Party (MLKP) Turkish Communist Party/Marxist Leninist (TKP/ML), Turkish Workers and Peasants Revolutionary Army (TIKKO) and Islamic Greater Eastern Raiders/Front (IBDA/C).!

Al-Qa'ida threats to target U.S. facilities in Turkey have been public knowledge for some time. On November 15, 2003, two synagogues in Istanbul were the targets of suicide car bombs. On November 20, the British Consulate General and the London-based HSBC bank in Istanbul were damaged by powerful explosions, killing dozens and wounding hundreds. These incidents represent a significant change from prior attacks in Turkey, which have previously involved small-scale, random bombings and small numbers of casualties. The investigations of these incidents in Istanbul remain open but transnational terrorist links are suspected. The potential for violence and terrorist actions against U.S. citizens and interests continues.

The Turkish National Police (TNP) is quite responsive in their role as protector of U.S. diplomatic and military interests in Turkey. The TNP has provided enhanced coverage at each of our facilities in Ankara, Istanbul, Adana and Izmir. The incidence of crime, both violent and the more traditional tourist crimes (pick pocketing, purse-snatching, etc.), is relatively low throughout Turkey. Visitors to Istanbul should be aware that tourist-type crimes are more prevalent there, especially in the traditionalist tourist areas, such as Sultanahmet and Istiklal Caddesi. The security office encourages visitors to report any security incidents, including surveillance, to the RSO immediately. Useful security

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information about Turkey is available on the following websites:

--Embassy Ankara: [HTTP://WWW.USEMB-ANKARA.ORG.TR](http://WWW.USEMB-ANKARA.ORG.TR) (Click on Security Matters)

--Consulate General Istanbul: [HTTP://WWW.USCONSULATE-ISTANBUL.ORG.TR](http://WWW.USCONSULATE-ISTANBUL.ORG.TR)

18. For further information regarding travel in Turkey consult the Consular Information Sheet. The Consular Information Sheet and public announcements are available on the internet at: <http://travel.state.gov>.

Other information is available on the following websites:

--The State Department Consular Affairs (ca) website:
<http://www.travel.state.gov/turkey.html>

--Turkish Daily News (English language Turkish newspaper): <http://www.turkishdailynews.com>

--Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs:
<http://www.mfa.gov.tr>

--The Republic of Turkey home page:
<http://www.turkey/index.html>

--Weather for Turkey:
<http://www.wunderground.com/global/tu.html>

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